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A

NARRATIVE

OF THE

MISSIONS

TO THE

NEW SETTLEMENTS

ACCORDING TO THE APPOINTMENT

OF THE

GENERAL ASSOCIATION

OF THE

STATE OF CONNECTICUT:

TOGETHER WITH

AN ACCOUNT

OF THE

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

OF

THE MONEY CONTRIBUTED BY THE PEOPLE OF CONNECTICUT,

IN MAY, 1793,

FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE MISSIONARIES,

ACCORDING TO AN ACT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE.

NEW-HAVEN—PRINTED BY T. & S. GREEN. 1794.

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A Narrative of the Miſſions to the New Settlements, appointed by the General Aſſociation of the State of Connecticut, and an Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Money contributed by the People of Connecticut for the Support of ſaid Miſſions.

THE General Aſſociation, informed that there were many new ſettlements in the northern and weſtern parts of the United States, which, on account of their infancy and other circumſtances, were unable to ſupport the preaching of the goſpel among themſelves; that many or all thoſe ſettlements were deſirous of the preaching of the goſpel, and that ſome of them had made explicit application for aſſiſtance in this matter, either to particular Aſſociations or to individual miniſters; took the ſubject into particular conſideration at their ſeſſion in June, A. D. 1788, and recommended it to the ſeveral particular Aſſociations to ſend miſſionaries of their own members to the new ſettlements, according to a rule then drawn up by the General Aſſociation. This recommendation was adopted and acted upon by the ſeveral Aſſociations for one year. But as it was found to be attended with great inconveniencies, it could not be proſecuted. In A. D. 1791, the general Aſſociation again took the ſubject into conſideration, and recommended it to the ſeveral particular Aſſociations, "to expreſs their views concerning the moſt proper "and feaſible mode of ſending miſſionaries to the new ſettle-"ments, and to communicate them to the next general Aſſocia-"tion." This was accordingly done, and the reſult was, that the general Aſſociation at their ſeſſion in 1792, drew up a petition to the General Aſſembly of the State, for a general contribution thro'out the State for the purpoſe of ſupporting miſſionaries to the new ſettlements, to be appointed by the general Aſſociation, and of ſupplying the pulpits of the miſſionaries during their abſence from their reſpective congregations. This petition was preferred and granted in the October following. To inform or remind the people of the ſeveral ſocieties of the State, of the act of the Legiſlature concerning the contribution, and to favour the charitable deſign, his Excellency the Governor was pleaſed to iſſue his proclamation. The reſult was, that the following ſums were contributed by the ſeveral ſocieties mentioned in the following account, viz.

In

In the County of Hartford.

	£.	s.	d.
Hartford, firſt ſociety,	12-	3	-6
South ſociety,	3-	12-	10
Weſt do.	3-	1	-3
Eaſt-Hartford,	7-	10	-0
Glaſtenbury,	5-	19	-8
Simſbury,	2-	17	-0
Weſt-Simſbury,	1-	1	-9
Farmington,	3-	11	-2
Northington,	0-	18-	10¾
Windſor, firſt ſociety,	2-	0	-1½
North-Windſor,	2-	6	-0
Wintonbury,	1-	0	-5½
Southington,	0-	18	-0
Farmingbury,	0-	9	-0
Berlin, (Kenſington)	1-	6	-4
Worthington,	1-	16	-2
New-Britain,	1-	16	-8
Suffield,	4-	9	-7
Weſt-Suffield	1-	16	-0
Wethersfield,	9-	7	-6½
Newington,	2-	11	-4
Stepney,	2-	18	-2½
Granby,	1-	1	-0¾
Briſtol, Cambridge,	1-	17	-6
Weſt-Britain,	0-	15-	10¼
Eaſt-Windſor,	6-	15	-0
North-Society,	3-	0	-4½
	£.	87-	1- 3¼

In the County of New-Haven.

	£.	s.	d.
NewHaven, 1ſt ſociety,	2	0	2¾
White-Haven ſociety,	3	18	5
The College,	3	10	3½
Weſt-Haven,	1	6	3
Epiſcopal ſociety,	1	1	6½
North-Haven,	3	0	0
Derby, firſt ſociety,	3	0	0½
Oxford,	2	10	5
Great-Hill, in Derby,	0	17	2¼
Milford, firſt ſociety,	4	15	8½
Second ſociety in do.	2	6	3½
Cheſhire,	3	10	8½
Eaſt-Haven,	1	1	5
Woodbridge, Amity,	2	12	1¾
Guilford, firſt ſociety,	4	8	0
North-Guilford,	2	5	10
4th ſoc. in Guilford,	0	7	3½
Eaſt-Guilford,	1	16	0
Branford,	1	7	0
North-Branford,	1	13	4
Northford,	1	9	10
Waterbury,	0	11	2
Salem,	1	5	0¾
Middlebury,	0	15	11½
Durham,	1	7	6
	£.	52	17 8½

In the County of New-London.

	£.	s.	d.
New-London,	5	5	9½
Norwich, firſt ſociety,	3	12	0
Chelſea,	6	16	0
Epiſcopal Church do.	0	3	0
Preſton,	0	16	0
North-Preſton,	7	7	4¼
Liſbon,	1	18	10
Newent,	1	9	0
Montville,	2	2	10½
Colcheſter,	4	0	0
Marlborough,	2	8	0
Weſt-Cheſter,	2	12	8
Lyme,	1	15	3
North ſociety in do.	3	2	10¾
Groton,	1	1	11¼
Franklin,	2	14	5¼
Bozrah,	1	13	0
Stonington-Point,	4	16	0
	£.	53	15 0¾

In the County of Fairfield.

	£.	s.	d.
Fairfield,	1	1	7
Greenfield,	2	8	0
Green's-Farms,	0	19	10¼
Norwalk,	3	11	11½
Canaan in do.	4	11	1
Stratford,	1	17	1
North-Stratford,	1	7	6½
Stratfield,	1	13	1
Stamford&Greenwich	4	10	5½
Stanwich,	1	15	1
Middleſex,	1	3	1
Brookfield,	2	10	4¼
Weſton, Norfield,	0	13	10½
Northfield,	2	8	1¼
Greenwich, Weſt ſoc.	3	6	4½
Baptiſt ſociety in do.	0	3	9
Danbury,	1	9	3
Bethel,	0	13	3
New-Fairfield, N. ſoc.	0	18	0
South ſociety in do.	1	4	1¼
Reading,	1	16	0
Ridgbury,	2	6	7¾
Huntington, Ripton,	1	13	9
New-Stratford,	2	10	0
	£.	46	12	3¾

In the County of Windham.

	£.	s.	d.
Windham,	1	9	5
Scotland,	2	5	10½
Hampton,	4	4	2
Brooklyn,	2	2	2¼
Lebanon,	5	4	3½
Goſhen in do.	4	2	9½
Canterbury,	0	19	5½
Weſtminſter	1	11	4
Woodſtock,	1	17	1
Weſt ſociety in do.	0	10	2½
North-Woodſtock,	3	6	9
Aſhford,	1	7	11
Weſtford,	0	13	4
Mansfield,	3	2	10¾
North ſociety in do.	1	2	9
Plainfield,	1	19	0
Voluntown, firſt ſoci.	1	6	8
Abington,	0	14	3
	£.	38	0	4½

In the County of Litchfield.

	£.	s.	d.
Litchfield,	2	14	9
Southfarms in do.	1	16	2½
Goſhen,	4	0	7½
Watertown, Weſtbury	1	17	1½
Northbury,	0	17	8
Torrington,	2	3	6
Torringford,	3	14	0
New-Hartford,	2	1	10¼
Woodbury,	2	2	5¾
Roxbury,	0	15	3½
Cornwall,	1	10	0
Waſhington, Judea,	2	8	1
New-Preſton,	1	11	11
Sharon,	1	3	0
Bethlem,	4	13	0
Wincheſter,	1	14	7
Harwinton,	2	1	1½
Hartland,	3	18	7
Second ſociety in do.	1	19	0
Canaan,	1	4	0
Second ſociety in do.	0	19	2½
Warren,	2	2	9
Norfolk,	3	2	2
Southbury,	3	2	1
Kent,	2	14	8
	£.	56	7	8

In

In the County of Middlesex.

	£.	s.	d.
Middletown,	2	7	8½
Westfield,	1	1	6
Saybrook,	1	5	4
Chester,	1	4	0
2d society,	0	13	6½
3d society,	0	16	11½
Chatham,	2	14	1
2d society,	0	16	2½
3d society,	0	6	4½
Killingworth,	1	3	0
North society,	2	8	8
Haddam,	0	19	6
East-Haddam,	2	14	6
Millington,	3	12	0½
Hadlyme,	2	2	1
	£.	24	5	6

In the County of Tolland.

	£.	s.	d.
Tolland,	4	17	11
Somers,	2	5	2
Do.	0	6	0
Coventry,	1	5	0½
North society,	1	9	2
Andover,	1	12	3
Ellington,	1	2	10½
Stafford, first society,	1	3	0
Gilead in Hebron,	1	2	0¼
Bolton,	4	0	0
North society,	2	9	9½
	£.	21	13	2¾

	£.	s.	d.
	21	13	2¾
	24	5	6
	56	7	8
	38	0	4½
Brought forward,	46	12	3¾
	53	15	0½
	52	17	8½
	87	1	3¼
	£.	380	13	1¼

Errors excepted.

A generous contribution having furnished the means, the general Association, at their next session, viz. in June 1793, proceeded to appoint the missionaries. And as they foresaw, that the missionaries, beside preaching the gospel, would have to administer the seals of the covenant, when there should be opportunity and proper subjects, and in some instances to gather and organize churches, and perhaps to ordain ministers; also as it is one principal object of the missions to impress on the inhabitants of the new settlements, a sense of the importance of the stated enjoyment of the preaching of the gospel and other means of grace, and to persuade them to exert themselves to this end; and as candidates and unsettled ministers cannot with so good a grace inculcate this duty; therefore the general Association judged it best, to send, for the most part, ministers settled in our own churches. They accordingly appointed the following eight gentlemen, the Rev'd Messi'rs David Huntington, Ammi Ruhamah Robbins, Benjamin Trumbull, Samuel John Mills, Cotton Mather Smith, Joseph Vail, Nathan Williams and Samuel Kells. Of these Messi'rs Trumbull and Williams immediately declined the mission, and the general Association appointed the Rev'd Messi'rs Theodore Hinsdale & Moses Cook Welch in their stead; and voted, that "the missionaries "shall spend four months in their missions, and that they be al-

"lowed

" lowed four dollars and a half per week, over and above four " dollars for the ſupply of their pulpits during their abſence." They alſo voted, " That Preſident Stiles, Meſſi'rs Nathan Wil- " liams and Benjamin Trumbull, Doctor Edwards and Thomas " Wells Bray, be a Committee to draw up a plan of the miſſi- " ons and an addreſs to the people of the new ſettlements, to " fill up the places of thoſe gentlemen who may fail of fulfilling " the miſſions to which they are appointed ; and if they judge " it expedient, to publiſh at ſome convenient time before the " firſt of May next, an account of the receipts and expenditures " of the moneys contributed, and a narrative of the miſſions : " any three or more of them to act."

Of the miſſionaries appointed by the general Aſſociation, the Rev'd Theodore Hinſdale and Moſes Cook Welch failed ; and the Committee at different times appointed the Rev'd Benjamin Wildman, Aaron Kinne, David Tullar, William Lyman, Samuel Nott, John Sheperd, Jeremiah Day, Noah Merwin, Peter Starr and Benjamin Wooſter. Of theſe Benjamin Wildman, David Tullar, William Lyman, Samuel Nott, Jeremiah Day & Noah Merwin failed. The miſſionaries, who have actually gone forth in this ſervice, are David Huntington, Ammi Ruhamah Rob- bins, Samuel John Mills, Cotton Mather Smith, Samuel Eells, Aaron Kinne, John Sheperd, Peter Starr & Benjamin Wooſter.

At the motion of ſome of the miſſionaries, it was agreed by the Committee, that the miſſionaries may, if they chooſe, divide the tour of four months ; but that they be paid once only for the time ſpent in going to and from the ſcene of their labours in the new ſettlements.

Agreeably to the direction of the general Aſſociation, the Committee drew up a ſhort addreſs to the inhabitants of the new ſettlements, exhibiting the occaſion and deſign of our ſend- ing miſſionaries among them, and requeſting them to receive them in a proper manner, and in general to coincide with the deſign. The miſſionaries were directed to read and diſperſe the copies of this addreſs in the new ſettlements.

The expenditure of the moneys contributed, ſo far as they have been expended, is as follows :

		£.	ſ.	d.
June 20, 1793.	Advanced to Rev'd Mr. Robbins previouſly to his entering on his miſſion,	6	0	0
July 3.	Do. to Rev'd Mr. Huntington,	3	12	0
22.	Do. to Rev'd Mr. Eells,	1	10	0
24.	Paid Meſſi'rs Greens' for printing 500 copies of an addreſs to the inhabitants of the new ſettlements,	1	5	0
Aug. 7.	Advanced to Rev'd Mr. Eells,	4	10	0
Sept. 11.	Do. to Rev'd Mr. Mills,	5	9	8½
	Paid Rev'd Mr. Robbins toward his ſervice as a miſſionary,	12	15	0
		£. 35	1	8½

Brought forward,		£.	35 1	8½
Octo. 23.	Paid Rev'd Mr. Eells in full of the balance due to him at 4½ dollars a week for his ſervices hitherto as a miſſionary, & 4 dollars a week for the ſupply of his pulpit,		13 16	0
	Paid Rev'd Mr. Smith his due at the ſame rates,		21 15	0
Nov. 8.	Paid Rev'd Mr. Mills the remainder of his due for ſervices hitherto performed as a miſſionary, at 4½ dollars a week, and 4 dollars a week for ſupply of his pulpit,		14 18	3½
	Paid Mr. Robbins toward his ſervices, &c.		4 10	0
	Paid Mr. Sheperd toward his ſervices & the ſupply of his pulpit,		18 0	0
Nov. 15.	Paid Mr. Huntington the remainder of his due for ſervice and ſupply of his pulpit,		40 11	6
1794, Jan'ry 23.	Paid Mr. Kinne in full for his ſervice and the ſupply of his pulpit,		43 7	0
		£.	191 19	6

The ſums above mentioned, are all which the Committee has as yet diſburſed. Several of the miſſionaries have not as yet returned from the ſervice. If they, according to the vote of the general Aſſociation, fulfill the term of four months, their wages and the pay for the ſupply of their pulpits, will ſomewhat exceed the amount of the whole contribution, and in this caſe the deficiency will be paid out of the next contribution. But as ſome of the miſſionaries will probably thro' want of health not perform the whole tour of duty appointed by the general Aſſociation; it is expected that the contribution already made will afford a ſufficiency to fulfill the ſeveral contracts made by the Committee.

Immediately after the ſeſſion of the General Aſſociation, their committee met, and deſired the Rev'd Mr. Robbins to proceed, as ſoon as poſſible, to Whiteſtown, and viſit the vacant ſettlements in that part of the State of New-York.

He was inſtructed to ordain miniſters, gather churches, catechiſe children and attend all miniſterial labours, as providence ſhould give him opportunity. On the 3d of July he proceeded on his miſſion, and in three days reached the vacant ſettlements on Mohawk river. In his tour out and in he viſited Bowman's-Creek, Weſtmoreland, Whiteſborough, Clinton, Brothertown, *German*-Flats, forts *Schuyler* & Stanwix, and many other places. He not only preached in the ſettlements on the river, but went north and ſouth and preached in as many others as the time allotted him would permit. He went northward as far as baron Stuben's ſettlement. He adminiſtred the ſacrament of the LORD's ſupper at Clinton, and attended a faſt at Weſtmoreland previous to the ordination of Mr. Joel Bradley. He afterwards attended

tended his ordination, and preached on the occaſion. At ſix different times and places, he catechiſed and inſtructed the children; attended a number of religious conferences and preached eighteen or twenty times, in the term of about five weeks. He alſo baptized a number of children, in ſeveral places, and viſited many ſick and diſtreſſed people in the ſettlements through which he travelled.

Agreeably to the direction of the committee, he made a tour, in October, into the vacant ſettlements north of Albany. He preached at Lanſingburg, Sarratoga-Springs, New-Galloway, Palmer and fort Edward. He proceeded up Hudſon's river as far as the Bend. Afterwards he went towards fort Ann; preached at Kingſbury, Wood-Creek, Orwell, Sharon, Addiſon, Fair-Haven, Skeenſborough, and various other places. At Paulet he attended an ordination and preached on the occaſion. In this as well as in his other tour he viſited many ſick people. Some were on the borders of eternity, whom he inſtructed and comforted in their laſt hours. At this time he was four weeks on his miſſion, and preached twenty five times, beſides catechiſing children and other miniſterial ſervices. Once he preached in the houſe of a pious woman, under uncommon trials, who had not heard a ſermon or prayer in twelve months.

Mr. Huntington left home in proſecution of his miſſion on the 17th of July, and according to the appointment of the committee, made his tour from Catſkill weſtward to New-Durham, Harpersfield, the ſettlements on Suſquehannah, and as far weſtward as Tioga-point, about two hundred miles from the Catſkill. On Saturday the 20th he reached Catſkill, and on the Sabbath preached to a very attentive aſſembly. The next day he viſited their ſchools and catechized their children; *took great pains* to impreſs their minds with a ſenſe of the importance of early piety. In his journey through this extenſive country he viſited the ſettlements already mentioned, Hampden on the Ouleout, Walton, Ogden, the ſettlements on Unadilla and the upper Chenango, preached, held conferences, and catechiſed the children as opportunities preſented. He viſited and preached at Onohoquagee, at Union and Choconut on and in the vicinity of Suſquehannah. On the 12th of September he arrived at a ſettlement on the Chemung, preached, and in the evening rode down the river ſeven miles to Tioga point.

This is formed by the confluence of the rivers Chemung and Suſquehannah, and is a fine pleaſant ſettlement, in the county of Luzern, in the ſtate of Pennſylvania. He had now reached the extremity of his journey, and was about three hundred miles from his family and flock.

After preaching at the point and viſiting the pious people, on his return he viſited and preached at Ranſom's Inn on Suſquehannah, at Owego and the ſettlements on the upper and lower forks of Chenango. He rode through an almoſt impervious wilderneſs, to general Patterſon's ſettlement. This was of about two years ſtanding, and there had never been a ſermon preached in it before. The general highly applauded the deſign

deſign of ſending miſſionaries and the charity of the good people of Connecticut. He proceeded down as far ſouth as the Great Bend, in Pennſylvania, in the county of Luzern. He rode through the wilderneſs and preached at Randolph. Beſides, he reviſited and preached at moſt of the places on his return, at which he had before preached. He gathered a church at Hampden, on the Oulcout, conſiſting of twenty-eight members, and adminiſtred the ſacraments of baptiſm and the Lord's ſupper.

He gathered another church, conſiſting of forty two members, at Walton, and adminiſtered the ſacraments. He preached at New-Stamford and another ſettlement on the Delaware, at Woodſtock and ſeveral other places. In this tour of four months he preached about ſixty times, gathered, or admitted into church communion ſeventy-ſeven perſons. Seven were admitted to full communion at Harpersfield. The greateſt part of theſe had never been in communion before. He baptized one adult perſon and fifty-nine children. He attended a conſiderable number of religious conferences, viſited many ſick and ſome dying people, attended funerals and preached on thoſe mournful occaſions. He probably rode between ſeven and eight hundred miles.

Mr. Smith was directed to make a tour through the Weſtern part of the ſtate of Vermont. He left Sharon the 6th of Auguſt and arrived at Weſt-Haven the next Saturday. On the Lord's day he preached in that town, to a numerous aſſembly. The week was ſpent in viſiting the neighbouring towns, and in preaching at Hampton in the ſtate of New-York, then at Caſtleton, twice at Hubberton, then at Benſon. Returned to Weſt-Haven, preached on the Lord's day and adminiſtred the ſacrament of the Lord's ſupper. He then proceeded northward, preached at Shoram, *Brid-port*, Addiſon, Panton, gathered a church and preached five times at Vergennes. He preached at Charlotte, Shelburn, Burlington Bay, Milton, Georgia, Fairfax, Eſſex, Williſton, Eaſt-Williſton, New-Haven and New-Haven gore. On his return he preached at Sunderland. He catechiſed the children and adminiſtred baptiſm as opportunity preſented. He was two months on his miſſion and preached forty-four times.

Mr. Eells began his journey, in proſecution of his miſſion, on the 17th of Auguſt, and agreeably to the directions of the committee, proceeded by the way of Albany and viſited the new towns and ſettlements north-weſtward towards lake Ontario as far as there were any, and the various ſettlements north and ſouth of the Mohawk river. In this tract there are between twenty and thirty towns and ſettlements. Moſt of theſe he viſited, preached to them, catechiſing children and giving chriſtian advice, as occaſion and opportunity preſented. There are ſix ſettlements north and northeaſt of fort Stanwix, and others forming nearly as far up as the lake. He then returned to fort Stanwix and viſited the ſettlements on Oriſkee creek and as far as Oneida lake, and the Mohawk tribe ſouthweſt of the

the lake. Thence he returned and visited the settlements south of New-Hartford and Clinton, fort Schuyler and the settlements between the fort and German Flats, on the south side of Mohawk river. He crossed the river to fort Dayton, and visited the settlements in that vicinity. Either as he went out or returned, he visited Freehold, Johnstown, Conajoharry, Fort Plain, Bowman's Creek, Cherry-valley, Mohawk church, Little falls and Royal Grant.

On the whole, he visited between twenty and thirty settlements, attended an ordination at Clinton, preached and gave the charge;—formed a church at Whitestown, laid the foundation for a church at Wright's settlement, north of fort Stanwix, examined and admitted eleven persons to covenant with GOD, baptized one adult and twenty children. He was absent from his people fifty-four days and preached about thirty times.

At the earnest request of Mr. Sergeant, missionary to the Indians of New-Stockbridge, and of the Indians themselves, he attended an important service in compromising difficulties, which had for a considerable time, subsisted in that place. The Indians had been exceedingly divided among themselves, and their affections had been so alienated from each other, that part of Mr. Sergeant's church had separated and formed a distinct church under the late Mr. Occum. But hearing that Mr. Eells was missionary from the General Association of Connecticut, they at once conceived a high esteem and veneration of him, and submitted all their difficulties to him. He conducted their matters with such wisdom as to reunite the two churches under the Reverend Mr. Sergeant, and brought several delinquents to a sense of their duty, and to make their peace with the church. He was also a means of settling animosities subsisting in the town, and of harmonizing the affections of the inhabitants as well as of the members of the church. While he was on this service, he delivered two public exhortations daily, to the general approbation of the christian Indians, as manifested by their public thanks.

Mr. Mills set out on the business of his mission, on the 18th of September, and visited the northern settlements in the state of Vermont, above Newbury and east of the mountain, together with the settlements in New-Hampshire contiguous to Connecticut river. From Newbury to Canada line is eighty miles, in which tract there is not one settled minister. Mr. Mills found such an opening for ministerial labours, when he came upon the ground, that he engaged Mr. Benjamin Wooster, a candidate, who had been regularly examined and approbated by the association of the Western district of the county of New-Haven, to assist him. They travelled up to the line, preached at Ryegate, Littleton, Lunenburg, Guildhall, & Lemington, on the Vermont side of the river; and at Bath, Lyman, Littleton, Lancaster, Northumberland, Stratford, Colebrook and other places on the east side, in New-Hampshire. They then rode back, down the river, about fifty miles upon the same road by which they went up, as there was no road higher up the river by which they could pass into the vacant settlements in Vermont. They then

paſſed through St. Johnſbury, into Danvil, Peacham, Cabott, Hardwick, Wheelock, Greenſborough, Minden, Wolcott, Hydeſpark, Johnſton, Cambridge, Fairfax, Weſtford, Eſſex, Underhill, Jericho, Bolton, Waterbury, Middleſex, Montpelier, Wilder-borough, Waſhington, Corinth and Bradford. They travelled about eight hundred miles in two months and paſſed over nearly three hundred miles of vacant ground, in which they found no miniſters. Says Mr. Mills, "I preached be-"tween forty and fifty times, and Mr. Wooſter between thirty "and forty; and generally to very attentive congregations. "There were hopeful appearances in one place and another, "and we had great opportunity for doing good." From the time they left Torringford till they returned, they were on their horſes every day, the LORD'S DAY excepted.

On the account of an unuſual concern for the ſalvation of the ſoul, at Cambridge and Fairfax, and becauſe ſectaries were zealouſly exerting themſelves, the *miſſionaries* went farther to the weſtward than was expected. In conſequence of this they fell in with one ſettled miniſter, Mr. Kingſbury of Jericho, who was the only one in the whole tract over which they paſſed above Newbury.

Sometimes Mr. Mills and Mr. Wooſter were together, at other times they took different routs, viſited different towns, and warned lectures for each other: So that in this way ſome places were favored with two, ſome with three, and others with four ſermons. Notwithſtanding all their exertions and diligence they were obliged to paſs ſome ſettlements both on the right hand and left without viſiting them.

Mr. Kinne, whoſe tour was from Whiteſtown through all the Geneſee country, and as far ſouth as Tioga point, ſet out on his miſſion September 25th, and on Saturday evening arrived at Nobletown. Lord's day, 29th, preached twice in the meeting houſe, and an evening lecture in another part of the town. By reaſon of the thirſt of the people, and their importunity to hear the word, in the new ſettlements, he preached 10 or 12 times before he reached the country of his deſtination. He then proceeded to viſit all the towns, *on the Geneſee road* from Deanſville to Geneſee river, with ſuch north and ſouth of the road as were a proper object of his miſſion.

He viſited Brothertown, Oneida, Cannaſeraga, Manilius, Pompey, Buck's Hovel, Camillus, and other ſettlements in their vicinity. He proceeded to Scipio, and preached at this and other towns on the Cayuga lake. He then proſecuted his journey to Ulyſſes, and Salmon Creek. Thence returning to Milton and Scipio, and as far as Cuyuga ferry, he croſſed and proceeded to Romulus, and preached at Appletown and Peach Orchard about the middle of the eaſt bank of the Canaſadago or Seneca lake. He viſited Geneva, Old-Caſtle, Canandarqua, Swift's-town, *Whiteſtown* on Muddy Creek, Boughtontown, Ballſtown, Curtiſtown, Miles's Gore, Canawagas, Norton's and other ſettlements on, & about the Canandarqua lake. He then proceeded ſouthward to Watkinſtown and Bath, preached at both places. On the whole he viſited about fifty towns and ſettlements in this tract

of

of country. He then proceeded southward to the Painted Post. This is eighteen miles from Bath, and about the same distance from Tioga point.

From this famous Indian monument, Mr. Kinne proceeded to Tioga Point. In his Tour from Whitestown to this place, he spent eighty-eight days and preached eighty times, besides conversing with the people, and advising and assisting them in respect to the formation of churches, and in writing confessions of faith and covenants for that purpose. In some places in which he preached, there had never before been an instance of public worship. He preached at the point, at Horsehead, Fryburg, Shesequin and Chemung Flats in its vicinity. At some of these he preached two and three times.

On his return, he preached at Owego, Choconut, Chenango, Onohoquage, Unadilla, Ouleout, Franklin, Schoharry kill, at a settlement north of New-Durham and at the Catskill. In the whole, besides other services, he preached more than a hundred times. He says, "I found it indeed a laborious ser-"vice, making a journey of more than thirteen hundred miles, "a greater part of which was not performed without great fa-"tigue, sometimes exposing the solitary traveller to immediate "danger, refusing seasonable refreshments, and denying necessa-"ry repose to his weary limbs: yet it gave me opportunity to "preach the unsearchable riches of CHRIST to thousands of "souls, which it is not probable I shall see again until I meet "them in eternity. I was universally received with kindness "and treated with respect, and at the time that their minds "were exhilarated with the manner and design of my coming "among them, and apparently filled with admiration and gra-"titude for the Christian attention and liberality of the people "of Connecticut, they joyfully embraced the opportunity of "attending religious worship, and exerted themselves to give "notice of the time and place; and for their embarassed and "difficult situation generally attended." He represents that the assemblies and individuals whom he addressed might be divided into three general classes. "First, those who behaved "with attention and decency; the next, those whose minds "appeared to be filled with serious meditations on divine sub-"jects; and then those who were sensibly affected with the "exhibition and application of evangelical truth. Poor souls! "O the flowing tears! Nor did I take my leave of them with-"out being intreated, and that with undeniable importunity, "that they might in future, possess an interest in the attention "and charitable assistance of their christian brethren."

In all the assemblies to which he preached, he saw but a single instance of indecency. In one instance only did the people neglect to give notice of his mission and to assemble at his desire for public worship. This was at the Painted Post.

In all places which the missionaries have visited they have introduced themselves by reading the Address of the committee of the general association, exhibiting the charitable designs of the legislature, of the general association and good people of Connecticut, and the duties to which they wished them to attend.

attend. This was generally received with joy and approbation, many on the reading of it were melted into tears. The miſſionaries report in their journals, extracts from which they have laid before us, That the people to whom they have preached have given remarkable attention, have hung upon their lips, been *ſwallowed up with the word.* Says one, "I "preached to a numerous audience, who gave remarkable "attention, and appeared well pleaſed with what the General "Aſſociation had done, in ſending miſſionaries into the new ſet-"tlements: And indeed this was the caſe wherever I preach-"ed: the people univerſally expreſſed, not only, their appro-"bation of what had been done for them, by their brethren of "Connecticut, but alſo requeſted that their thanks be returned "to the General Aſſociation and their Committee, for their "benevolent exertions in their behalf. In many inſtances the "people manifeſted their approbation and gratitude in writ-"ing; and thoſe who did not write, requeſted me to return "their thanks verbally." Another has this minute, They "ſeemed to hear with avidity. Read the circular letter again. "It has been my practice to read this letter every ſabbath day "where it had not been communicated before, and frequently "on lecture days. This has been acceptable, and, I doubt not, "beneficial, in various reſpects, to the inhabitants of this coun-"try. Some have been ſo gratified with the ſerious counſels "and affectionate exhortations which it contains that they have "deſired me to read it twice in one day and to the ſame aſſem-"bly." In the journals of others are theſe teſtimonies, "We "were kindly received. We came upon the people, rather on "ſurpriſe, as they had generally heard nothing, and they knew "not what to ſay. To be called upon by your addreſs, and by "us as we were able; to be informed what had been done by "the State of Connecticut, and that the pious people were dai-"ly offering fervent cries to heaven for them, made deep im-"preſſions on the ſerious people, and brought tears into the "eyes of many others. The people univerſally, ſo far as I "could ſee and hear, accept our exertions with great thank-"fulneſs, and appear to rejoice that they may have opportu-"nities for religious inſtruction."

By the charitable contributions made the laſt year, and the meaſures adopted by the general aſſociation, the goſpel has been preached through that vaſt tract of country from the northweſtern parts of New-Hampſhire as far weſt as Geneſee river, and down as far ſouthweſterly as the Great Bend in the ſtate of Pennſylvania. The miſſionaries have been as far north in the States of New Hampſhire and Vermont as the Canada line. In the State of New York they have been north as far as Crown Point, and northweſtward as far as fort Stanwix and baron Stuben's ſettlement. Moſt of the new ſettlements, weſtward of the Hudſon as far as Geneſee river and ſouth of the Mohawk river as far as the ſtate of Pennſylvania, have repeatedly heard the word preached, and abundant thankſgivings have been given to the name of the LORD, through thoſe extenſive regions, in conſequence of the meaſures which have been taken.

taken. The wilderneſs has indeed been made to rejoice and the ſolitary place to be glad.

Beſides, we expect further good to be done in conſequence of the contribution. Mr. Shephard is now out on his Miſſion of four months, he was directed to go over the ſame extenſive country, over which Mr. Kinne paſſed. Alſo Mr. Robbins is now gone on his third tour in company with Mr. Starr.

It is expected that they will viſit the northweſtern part of Vermont, and the northeaſtern part of the State of New York, as far up as the northern boundary of the United States. As theſe gentlemen have not returned from their reſpective tours, we are not able to give any particular account of them.

The committee have received numerous letters of thanks from various parts of the new countries expreſſing the moſt lively ſentiments of gratitude to the Legiſlature, the General Aſſociation & the people of Connecticut, for the charitable meaſures adopted in behalf of them and their children. A large proportion of theſe are from the State of Vermont. One in particular is from the Aſſociation of miniſters in the ſouth weſtern part of that State, addreſſed to the General Aſſociation and their Committee. In this they ſay, "Impreſſed with the moſt "lively ſentiments of gratitude, we feel ourſelves bound to ex- "preſs our feelings, in a letter of thanks addreſſed to your Re- "verend body, for the benevolent and timely attention which "you have ſhewn to the religious intereſts of the people in this "infant part of our country.—For your intereſting and feeling "addreſs to the inhabitants of the new ſettlements in the nor- "thern and weſtern parts of the United States; and your ſend- "ing miſſionaries from your body to itinerate and preach the "goſpel among them, to gather and organize churches and aſ- "ſiſt them in their ſpiritual concerns." They repreſent that vacant congregations are many and the labourers few; and "pray the LORD of the harveſt to ſend forth labourers, and "crown" our "liberality and diſintereſted ſervices with the "ſublimeſt reward."

We find by the journals of the miſſionaries, that great numbers of the new ſettlements, who have not ſent letters of thanks, have, by their principal men returned abundant thanks to the miſſionaries, and deſired that they would, in their names, preſent them to the Legiſlature, the General Aſſociation and the people of Connecticut, for their benevolent attention to their ſpiritual intereſts. They have alſo with great importunity requeſted the continuance of our charitable exertions for their inſtruction and conſolation. The joy of ſome of the good people, eſpecially where churches were gathered and the ſacraments adminiſtered, can hardly be deſcribed. Their hearts appeared replete with the joys of their REDEEMER, and their lips were filled with his praiſe. It is minuted by one of the miſſionaries, That to them "the word of the Lord was precious, and the "feet of thoſe who publiſhed good tidings of good were beau- "tiful; and were it poſſible, they would pluck out their eyes "and give them to regular, godly miniſters."

Numbers

Numbers of such precious characters are to be found even in the looseſt ſettlements, in which there is in general the leaſt attention to the concerns of religion. Some of their principal characters have ſubſcribed twenty, and twenty five pounds annually, for the purpoſe of procuring and ſupporting a regular miniſtry, and yet have not been able to obtain this deſirable bleſſing.

Such has been the engagedneſs of the people to hear the word that they have travelled ſeven, eight and ten miles, and in ſome inſtances more, only to hear a ſermon. Even the feebler ſex have been ſeen travelling barefoot, through rough roads, a conſiderable diſtance, to attend divine worſhip.

The miſſionaries were directed to obtain as accurate a ſtate of the countries through which they paſſed, as might be, and to note all the ſettlements worthy of notice, their diſtances from each other and number of inhabitants, that the General Aſſociation and their committee might have the moſt particular and accurate accounts of the new ſettlements, for their future direction and aſſiſtance. In conſequence of this, the committee are able to lay before the public more particular information of their ſtate, than they ever were before. The miſſionaries from what they have ſeen, are more and more convinced, and from the information they have given us, we ourſelves are more deeply impreſſed with a ſenſe of the importance, excellency and utility of ſending miſſionaries into the new ſettlements.

The deſtitute ſtate of that extenſive territory north of Newbury, on both ſides of the river, in the States of New-Hampſhire and Vermont has been repreſented. In other parts of the State of Vermont the people are miſerably deſtitute of the means of inſtruction. Mr. Smith was informed by ſome of the principal men in the State, That in the county of Chittenden there are twenty eight ſettled towns, and only three regular miniſters. In the county of Addiſon there are twelve ſettled towns and but one ſettled miniſter: in the county of Rutland there are twenty and but a few miniſters. In moſt places the ſettlements are ſo new, and the inhabitants ſo divided in ſentiment, that they are not able, at preſent, to ſupport a ſettled miniſtry. In ſome few towns the people are both able and willing to ſupport a regular miniſtry, but are not able to find ſuitable perſons.

The ſettlements on Hudſon's river, above Sarratoga, and as far as South bay; north and ſouth of lake George, at Crown Point and other places weſt of Lake Champlain; are as deſtitute of inſtruction, as thoſe mentioned in the ſtate of Vermont.

In all that tract of country weſt of Schenectada, on Mohawk river, and ſo on as far weſtward as lake Ontario there are few miniſters of any denomination.

In the tract weſt of the Hudſon, and ſouth of the Mohawk river as far as Tioga, there are next to none. The new ſettlements in this extenſive tract contain from 3, to 80 families. In fifty towns or ſettlements there are not more than a thouſand families, five or ſix thouſand ſouls. The whole were they all collected together would not exceed ten or twelve middling

pariſhes

parishes in Connecticut. On an average they do not exceed about twenty families in a settlement.

It is easily discernible, that it is not in the power of such settlements to build houses for public worship and support a regular ministry. The most which they can do, at present, is for a number of settlements to form a combination for the support of a candidate to preach circuitously among them, for part of the year. In some of the settlements either such combinations are formed or laudable exertions are making for them. In five or six of the largest settlements churches have been formed, either by Mr. Huntington, or by Mr. Judd a missionary from the General Assembly of the presbyterian church.

The inhabitants of the new settlements in the Genesee country are principally, either directly or indirectly from New-England, and retain the spirit and manners of their native states, their reverence for the sabbath, their zeal for religious worship, and their decency of attendance, their attention to literature and civilization, and their attachment to the privileges of society. At the same time they are industrious and economical. How important is it to keep alive and invigorate this taste and these habits! To fix and transmit them to posterity! As nothing can have a more direct tendency to this, than sending missionaries among them, to instruct them in the things of the kingdom of CHRIST, to press them to family religion, domestic and all social duties, and, by the divine smiles, to make them truly and eternally good and happy; nothing can be more important and interesting, either in a civil or religious view. Sober, industrious, frugal citizens are the strength and glory of *States*. They have the happiest influence on the wealth, population, literature, peace, health and vigor of a people; on civil and religious liberty and whatever can make a nation honorable, formidable or happy.

What has been observed with respect to these settlements is, in some measure applicable to all the new settlements, both in the northern and western parts of the United States. A large proportion of the new settlers were from New-England, and many were from this state, our neighbours and fellow christians; nay, our sons and daughters. To prevent their falling into error, a state of dissipation and forgetfulness of GOD, to cherish their good feelings & habits, to beget new ones, to instruct & animate them, till they shall be able to settle churches and a regular ministry among them, would be doing them and their posterity the most essential and lasting services. It would lay a foundation for immense happiness both natural and moral. It would be performing a most important service for the States, and what is still infinitely more, may be the means of the salvation of many souls, more valuable than a world, not only in the present age, but in the ages to come, and of endless revenues of praise to our common FATHER and REDEEMER.

We present these facts to the public eye, persuading ourselves, that nothing more than this plain statement of matters, will be necessary to afford abundant conviction of the importance and utility of continuing to send forth our missionaries, and

and to excite the charity of our good people, for that benevolent purpose. This is the only way in which the new settlements can be, in any tolerable measure, supplied with a preached gospel and the administration of its precious ordinances, and the important designs above suggested carried into execution.

The tract of country through which the new and vacant settlements are forming, in the northern and western parts of the United States, is very extensive. Never was there a happier opening for Zion, "To enlarge the place of her tent, to stretch "forth the curtains of her habitations, to lengthen her cords "and strengthen her stakes." What a glorious service must it be, to plant regular churches and ministers, to promote christian morals and diffuse the blessings of literature, civilization, regular society and undefiled religion, in the initial settlements through such extensive countries. We persuade ourselves that the prospect before us will excite and animate our christian brethren, and that they will count themselves happy liberally to contribute to so pious and benevolent a design. It will not escape their reflection what refreshment and joy it will give to thousands of their fellow Christians in the wilderness. They will reflect on the numerous thanksgivings which will be offered to their common Father, on that account, and how many prayers may be addressed to HIM by their fellow disciples, for blessings on them and their children. They will place themselves in the circumstances of their brethren, in a wilderness, without public instruction, in a great measure without good books, and consider how welcome sermons, and sacraments, ministerial visitations, instructions, and consolations in affliction, would be to them; and surely they will rejoice at an opportunity, to contribute to these happy purposes. We are taught to pray without ceasing, "Thy kingdom come," but who, with any sincerity or consistency, can make this prayer, while he neglects the means and opportunities of advancing this kingdom?

We are persuaded that in these views even the societies, who did not contribute the last year, will regret their neglect, and labour not to come behind their brethren, by their more abundant charity in future.

All our good people will recollect, That "the liberal deviseth liberal things, and that by liberal things shall he stand: "That the liberal soul shall be made fat; and he that watereth shall be watered also himself. He which soweth sparingly, shall also reap sparingly: and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." It is the character of the man whom the LORD blesseth, "He hath dispersed abroad; he "hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth forever."

EZRA STILES,
BENJAMIN TRUMBULL,
THOMAS WELLS BRAY,
JONATHAN EDWARDS,
} Committee of the General Association.

N. B. *After the printing of the former part of this narrative, the Committee received the contribution of Enfield,* £. 1 16 0.

The Committee, as has been obſerved, have received from the new ſettlements, many letters expreſſive of their gratitude to the people of Connecticut, to the General Aſſembly and to the General Aſſociation. As a ſpecimen we publiſh the one ſent by Baron Steuben and the ſettlers on his patent, which is as follows :

To the Honorable the General Aſſembly of the State of Connecticut, And the Reverend General Aſſociation in Connecticut,

WE the inhabitants of the patent of Steuben, would return you our moſt ſincere and hearty thanks, for the kind care you have taken of us, in ſending us a Miſſionary to preach the goſpel to us, in this our infant ſettlement in the wilderneſs ; whereby we have been favour'd with an excellent ſermon this day, by the Rev'd Mr. Eells ; and as we are now the inhabitants of another ſtate, (tho' ſome of us were from New-England) we hope we ſhall not forget nor deſert the religion, the manners or cauſe of the New-England ſtates.

Steuben, September 3d, 1793.

Steuben,
David Starr,
Samuel Sizer,
Abraham Brooks,
John Platt,
Simeon Woodruff,
Gaim Morgan,
William Caſe,
Stephen Corniſh,
Aaron Francis,
Eli Sizer,
Ebenezer Weeks.

Steuben, Sept. 4, 1793.